has since been terminated due to unsatisfactory performance of the licencee.

Loss of Revenue to Railways due to defects in the Computerised Ticket Booking System

3505. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many crores of rupees of revenue Railways have lost because of defects in the computer tickets booking system Installed by keltron, during the last three years;

(b) the loss incurred by the South Central Railways; whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any action has been initiated against the persons involved; and

(d) whether Keltron is held responsible partly or fully for the defects in the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) On getting information that there was some discrepancy in the issue of general tickets through Self Printing Ticket Machines (SPTMs) supplied by M/s. Keltron at Secunderabad station, a joint team of Commercial, Accounts and Vigilance Officers/Inspectors was formed to seize all the records and suspend the working of these machines. Though the manipulation was suspected at Secunderabad station, the machines available at Kacheguda and Hyderabad were also suspended for operation and records seized as the SPTMs of above three stations were supplied by M/s. Keltron Ltd. Preliminary investigations revealed that two booking clerks at Secunderabad station have misappropriated an amount of Rs. 1661/-. They have been suspended and taken up under Discipline & Appeal Rules.

(d) Preliminary investigations have not established the involvement of M/s. Keltron Ltd.

Amount spent by Railways for doubling work in Kerala

3506. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent by the Railways for doubling work in Kerala for the last five years;

(b) the amount proposed to be spent in the new budget 1998-99; and

(c) the percentage of the total amount earmarked for doubling in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Rs. 173.75 crores.

(b) Rs. 88.64 crores.

(c) 17.38% of the total amount earmarked for doublings in the Budget 1998-99 has been provided for these doubling works in Kerala.

पौंटा और कालाआम (हि०प्र०) के रास्ते देहरादून से चंडीगढ़ तक रेलवे लाइन

3507. श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पौंटा व कालाआम (हिमाचल प्रदेश) के रास्ते देहरादून से चंडीगढ़ तक रेलवे लाइन के संबंध में कोई सर्वेक्षण किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस रेलवे लाइन पर कार्य कब तक शुरू किया जाएगा और इसके कब तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इस परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत कितनी है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) सर्वेक्षण अभी प्रगति पर है तथा 30.6.1999 तक पूरे किए जाने की संभावना है। सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट प्राप्त होने पर ही परियोजना पर आगे विचार करना संभव होगा।

(ख) सर्वेक्षण पूरा हो जाने पर ही अनुमानित लागत का पता चल पाएगा।

Action Plan to check crime and sabotage in Trains

3508. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
the action plan to contain "crime on trains and sabotage" with joint assistance of the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Policing being a 'State Subject' under the Constitution of India, prevention of crime in running trains and Railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). The Railway administration, on their part, maintains close liaison and coordination with the State Governments and renders necessary assistance to them to contain crime on Railways.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had convened a meeting on 8th April, 1996, to review the measures taken to prevent crime, robbery and dacoity in the trains. Ministry of Railways has suggested an 'action Plan' in the meeting. This Action Plan and other suggestions were communicated to the State Governments for taking appropriate action by Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Ministry of Railways had called a joint meeting of Chief Security Commissioners of all Zonal Railways and all State Government Railway Police Chiefs in September, 1996 to discuss the strategy to check crime on Railways. The next joint meeting is proposed to be held in August, 1998.

Based on the Action Plan and discussion in the joint meeting, following action, as reported by the GRP authorities has been taken:—

(1) Lodging of FIR has been made easier and victim friendly.

(2) Investigation of pending cases is being expedited by the GRP authorities.

(3) Special raids are being conducted by the GRP against the absconding accused.

(4) Mobile Police Posts have been opened in a few selected trains.

(5) Police/RPF booths have been provided on a platforms for the assistance of passengers.

(6) As far as possible trains are escorted by GRP in vulnerable sections, specially during night hours.

(7) A compendium of criminals operating on railways is being prepared for sharing of criminal intelligence.

(8) Special joint drives are being conducted against undesirable elements in the Station area.

(9) Periodical coordination meetings between RPF and GRP are being conducted.

(10) Schemes for modernisation of RPF have been undertaken.

Superfast Train between Kerala and Calcutta

3509. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hardship is being faced by the people of Kerala to travel to Calcutta by rail due to absence of a superfast train;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present train connecting the two places is running irregular and takes more time; and